

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 18, 2010, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 12-17 and 36-41 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 1-3, 7-10, 18-22, 25-27, 30-34, 42-46, 50 and 54 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Entry of Response Proper

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration on the part of the Examiner as the Amendment merely clarifies the claimed features of the invention; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to objections raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicants respectfully acknowledge and appreciate the indication by the Examiner that Claims 12-17 and 36-41 are allowed.

Claim Rejection -- 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-2, 7-10, 25-26, 30-34 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,298,441 to Handelsman et al. (hereinafter "Handelsman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,195,667 to Duga et al. (hereinafter "Duga") in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,890,177 to Moody et al. (hereinafter "Moody") and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,553,216 to Yoshioka et al. (hereinafter "Yoshioka"). Claims 3 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Handelsman in view of Duga in view of Moody in further view of Yoshioka and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,675,384 to Block et al. (hereinafter "Block"). Claim 50 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,761,681 to Huffman et al. (hereinafter "Huffman") in view of Duga in view of Handelsman, and further in view of Yoshioka. To the extent the rejection remains applicable to the claims as amended, the Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as follows.

By this amendment, the rejected claims have been canceled. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of the claims are now moot.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of Claims 12-17 and 36-41, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing attorney docket number 033033-00029.**

Respectfully submitted,



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